

(XLIst YEAR.)

T H E

(No. 2016.)

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, SEPTEMBER 1, 1785.

L O N D O N, May 9.

THE minister having in contemplation the selling great part of the crown lands, a clamour was raised, that this measure would be injurious to the future growth of timber, for supplying the navy; in order to obviate this difficulty, the surveyor-general was examined in the house of commons, when he gave the following evidence:

He had imported some 4 inch oak plank from Norfolk, in Virginia, from 30 to 70 feet in length, and from 13 to 15 inches in breadth, and keeps it's breadth from end to end, that if it was well picked, it would be of the greatest service for bottom plank for men of war, 6 or 7 feet high, and almost to the water's edge; that for ships bottoms, to as to be a ways under water 4 or 5 planks above the floor ribband, it is as good or better than either Dantzick or English plank; that he had observed when ships were broken up after 12 or 20 years service, this plank lying in the bottom, has been as good as ever; that he had found the Virginia better than the New York timber and plank; that the best pitch pine in the world comes from Virginia, and is used by the Liverpool ships in the African trade, and also Carolina pitch pine, both very durable, and though used in the ships sides above water and exposed to the sun, are not affected by it, and do not shrink; that the Carolina live oak is equal to the English, and exceeds that of all other countries; but is not long enough for compass timber, nor of a size for knees of large ships; that he has been told that live oak grows to a great size, and in great quantities in Cumberland and Maryland on the coast of East Florida; that in Virginia there is a kind of live oak, called the black oak, to appearance equal to the English, but does not know in what quantity it may be had; that he has seen a ship's keel of timber from Quebec, while sawing into plank, and thinks it equal to Dantzick or English; and that mahogany and cedar would be very good for beams or for plank, if they could be got.

That plank from Norfolk in Virginia might be imported here at 31. and 31. 5s. a load, if a proper person was sent out to direct the cutting of it; that it might be had from Kappahanoek, as cheap and in greater quantities; that he has imported pitch pines from Norfolk in Virginia and told them here at 1s. a cubic foot; oak at 1s. 4d. and 1s. 6d. a foot; keel pieces from 40 to 60 feet long, at 2s. and 3s. 6d. a foot; that timber he supposes may be imported at this price from any part of America and from some parts cheaper; but American timber will not do for outside work, above water, being fit only for keel pieces, floor timbers, plank under water, and such uses as Dantzick plank is suited to.

That English timber for plank and thick stuff for the way, is advanced 30 or 40 per cent. within these 10 years; and the merchants timbers for frames, which used to be 9d. or 10d. a foot, is now 1s. and 1s. 1d. a foot; and he said, to tell a tree in a season fit for bark, is not detrimental to the timber.

A dreadful fire has happened lately at Constantinople, which consumed two thirds of that immense city: It broke out in the morning near the shore, and the walls of the seraglio. The wind which was northerly, made the fire run along these walls, and about seven o'clock reached the palace of the vizir, situated in the middle of a hill. The grand signior was present, but neither his orders nor the efforts made, could save that immense building from the flames, the fire extending in the direction of the wind, with the greatest rapidity. It was said that the fire, in approaching the church of Sophia, would be stopped by the mats of the building, and accordingly all the succours were directed to that quarter; but the lead of the cupola, melted by the heat of the atmosphere, running through the stone gutters on the heads of the guards and workmen, left a full scope to the activity of the fire. From that moment no body thought of stopping it; it was suffered to devour every thing. The conflagration was general. The wind whistled to the east, and carried the line of fire across the city, for more than 7000 English feet. The fire then rushed to the center of the city, and when it reached the branches of fire, the roots of which were in the seraglio, Constantinople became a burning sea. The efforts made only added to the calamity: a whole regiment of janissaries employed in beating down some houses, were surrounded by two lateral branches of the fire. The cries of these unfortunate wretches heard through the column of fire, with those of women and children suffering the same fate; the crash of the falling buildings; the cracking of the flaming planks, carried into the air by the violence of the heat, the tumult of the inhabitants threatened by the conflagration in every quarter, combined to render it a scene of accumulated horror not to be described.

Extract of a letter from on board the Packet, dated off Cape of Good Hope, May 21.

"We are now waiting for a fair wind at this place; and this being Whitsuntide week, a fair is held here, which there has been a bloody conflict between the crew of an American brig (an American) and a recruiting party of soldiers, consisting all of Scotchmen. The combat was obstinately contested, on both sides, for a long time. But at last victory declared in favour of the American tars. One of the Americans was as brave a fellow as ever was pitted. He broke the Scotchman's sword, and laid on them, one after the other,

so lustily, that by the help of his brave comrades, he obliged them all to take to their heels. The farmers and people of this island rejoiced greatly at their success, for they hate the soldiery."

May 18. Yesterday morning all the light baggage of prince Edward was sent from the queen's palace to Woolwich, and put on board the Aquila yacht. Prince Edward embarked on board the Aquila on Saturday next, from Gravesend. There was a time when the English would not be pleased to see their prince go in such numbers to reside out of the country; and much less so since the accession of the reigning family to the throne live in Germany. On the arrival of prince Edward in Hanover, there will be three sons of our king residing in his electoral dominions.

June 6. Authentic letter from Madrid, dated April 24, says, that the whole attention of the *El Consejo Supremo de guerra*, or the great council of war, is at some time past been taken up, by orders from his catholic majesty, in planning the grand expedition against the Barbarians, in which twenty-four bomb ketches or a new construction are to be employed.

The French have not only sent engineers to Turkey, but ship-builders; and several large ships have been built in the dock yard in Constantinople, to meet against the Russians.

An immense quantity of bullets to be used by the Spaniards, a correspondent is told, are hollow, with an aperture and fuse at one end, when giving fire to the infanterie when in the ground, burnt like a mine, and have the same effect. M. la Boccassiere, in the Spanish service, in the course of some experiments lately, demonstrated to several general officers that the bullets flew seven miles in a minute!—One Corbio, a sergeant-major, has been rewarded and promoted for his construction of "angels" on a new model; bullets formed for the more effectual destruction at sea against the corsairs.

Recent letters from the Hague import, that M. le marquis de Verac, the French ambassador, has offered a considerable reward to whoever shall discover the villains that lately broke into and robbed his house, particularly as it has appeared since, that a small box, containing papers of consequence is also missing; among which was a sketch of complete Maillibois instructions, which, being forwarded to England, has appeared in one of our late papers. These instructions (the letters add) have opened the eyes of the Dutch very much.

N E W - Y O R K, August 17.

We are informed that captain Aibone's brigantine, formerly used as a trader between the cities of Philadelphia and Charleston, has lately been purchased, and is arrived in this port, and named the Intanta, commanded by captain Lator, intended as a constant packet between this port and the Havana.

The treaty proposed to be laid on the first of October next, at the mouth of the Great Miami, it is expected will close all business with the Indians for the present. A great additional cession of land is expected from them. Congress have appointed major general Robert Howe, of North Carolina, distinguished on many occasions by his great abilities and exertions in the course of the late war, one of the commissioners for Indian affairs, to attend at the above treaty.

Extract of a letter from Kingston, (Jamaica) dated July 16.

"By a gentleman just arrived from Hispaniola, we learn, that the late order, excluding American vessels from all their different ports, does not extend to such as are loaded with fish and lumber, taking only tobacco and molasses in return, but so determined are the French, with respect to other articles of the island produce, that a schooner belonging to New London was lately seized at Port-au Prince, having on board only two hogheads of sugar, and ten bags of coffee, but released on the captain agreeing to pay a fine of 100 pistoles."

August 19. The lectures and exhibitions at the theatre on Tuesday evening, were highly satisfactory to a very numerous auditory. As on the one hand every generous and humane mind must have been doubly pleased and gratified on the reflection that the entertainment was calculated to relieve, in some degree, the hard necessities of the poor and unfortunate; so on the other, the liberality manifested by the managers in this truly laudable and praiseworthy occasion, cannot fail to make the most favourable and lasting impression.

A gentleman in Boston has lately received a letter from his correspondent in St. Kitts, informing that a British act of parliament was published in that island on the 3rd day of April last, prohibiting the import of all fish from any of our United States, into any of the British Isles.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, August 15.

Very recent accounts from Kentucky confirm the reports hitherto received from that quarter, that the Six Nations have expressed the greatest dissatisfaction of the late treaty, alleging that the British officers at Niagara and Detroit, had informed them that our commissioners had imposed on them, in stating that those lands were ceded to us by the British, and that we were to take possession of the abovementioned posts. That the celebrated and noted Brant had arrived from England, who united with them in the same sentiment and opinion. That in consequence of this information, a council had been held at the Six Nations town, where several other

tribes, besides the Six Nations, assembled, the result of which we are unable precisely to ascertain and determine—but as two chiefs, viz. Cornplanter and another, with thirty warriors, have since been at Fort Pitt, and presented the papers, exchanged at the treaty, to colonel Harmar, our commanding officer there, it is conjectured, and reasonable to suppose their intentions are hostile and unriendly. Colonel Harmar, after having a talk with them, declined receiving their papers, and observed that these persons gave them such intelligence with a view to excite their jealousy, and to make them uneasy, and that they were enemies both to them and to us. The Indians said they always understood that the lands contracted for by the commissioners from Pennsylvania, were to be set apart and considered as hunting ground for both parties, and not to be surveyed and the trees spotted for the purposes of settlement and cultivation. They likewise observed, that as only a few of their chiefs were at the treaty, they had not been fully and regularly represented. In their drunken frolics they have also declared, that they have never been conquered, and would not give up their lands. They seemed the more inclined to believe the stories imposed on them by the British emissaries and incendiaries, because we had not taken possession of Niagara and Detroit, agreeable to the representations of our commissioners. These are the principal arguments now used and urged by the Indians, for not complying with the terms of the treaty. And we understand that an express has been sent from Fort Pitt, with this intelligence to Congress.

Extract of a letter from St. Esprit, dated July 22, 1785.

"I have nothing new to inform you of, except that on Monday morning the 11th instant, about half after two o'clock, we were much alarmed here by a violent shock of an earthquake, which lasted upwards of a minute. As I in general sleep very sound, I believe I should not have heard it had I not been waked by the shrieks of the ladies of the house. On my waking I was much terrified; for the bed shook almost like the rocking of a cradle, and the house rattled as if it would have come down about our ears. Add to this, the dismal cries of the family, which were sufficiently terrifying. It however went off without doing any damage. They say here they have not felt so severe a shock these 40 years. It was experienced by all the neighbouring islands much about the same time, and several vessels a number of leagues out at sea felt it, especially a small one off St. Kitts, which by the commotion it made in the water lost her rudder, split her pump and rose-top, and was so shook that the captain was afraid she would have gone to pieces."

A P R O C L A M A T I O N.

WHEREAS it hath been represented to the United States in Congress assembled, that several disorders and disturbances have crossed the river Ohio, and settled upon their unappropriated lands: And whereas it is their intention, as soon as it shall be surveyed, to open offices for the sale of a considerable part thereof, in such proportions, and under such other regulations as may suit the convenience of all the citizens of the said states, and others, who may wish to become purchasers of the same; and as such conduct tends to defeat the object which they have in view, is in direct opposition to the ordinances and resolutions of Congress, and highly disrespectful to the federal authority—they have therefore thought fit, and hereby issue this their proclamation, strictly forbidding all persons, under pain of instant imprisonment, and enjoining all people who have settled thereon to depart, with their families and effects, without loss of time, as they shall answer the time at their peril.

D O N E by the United States in Congress assembled, the fifteenth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and eighty five, and the ninth year of the independence of the United States of America.

RICHARD HENRY LEE, President.

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

N. B. The Printers in the several states are particularly requested to give the above a place in their papers.

August 22. Last week several companies of infantry and one of artillery, marched through Reading on their way to the westward; being the quota of troops from the state of New-York, ordered, by congress, to be raised, for the defence of the frontiers.

Monday the 8th instant, a barn, near Reading, was struck with lightning, and entirely consumed, together with the adjoining stables, about forty tons of hay, and a great quantity of grain, &c.

August 23. It must give every friend to American manufactures great pleasure to hear, that Mr. John Bird, lately from North-Britain, hath constructed a mill for spinning barley, near Wilmington, and manufactures that wholesome and agreeable grain in the neatest manner, and at a price below the imported. The barley may be seen at Mr. John Morton's store. It has been pronounced by good judges to be equally prepared, and in point of taste to be preferable to the best Scotch barley.

Extract of a letter from Richmond, Virginia, dated August 13, 1785.

"On Wednesday evening last, an express arrived from the Western country to our governor, advising, that about the first of this month, a treaty was to have been held between some of our people and the Indians; that upon their meeting, about twelve miles from Point Pleasant, on the other side of the Ohio, the Indians, instead of entering into the negotiation as proposed